



**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Not On
Agenda Item No. 2B2

TO: Honorable Chairperson and Members
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 13, 2004

FROM: Alex Penelas
Mayor

A handwritten signature of Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: Item 11B8
Appointment of Director –
Miami-Dade Police Department

The Miami-Dade Police Department has been privileged since incorporation of having four outstanding Public Safety Directors. Most recently, Carlos Alvarez led the Miami-Dade Police Department with honor and tremendous results for seven years. On behalf of a grateful community, I want to commend Carlos on a very successful career in one of the finest police departments in the nation.

Under the leadership of these fine individuals, talented law enforcement professionals rose through the ranks and have been ready to take the department to the next level. During this time, an up and coming public servant prepared himself and earned the respect and admiration of rank and file officers for this very important decision.

It is for this reason that I am very pleased with the appointment of Robert L. Parker to the position of Miami-Dade County Police Director. I want to commend the County Manager on his selection from within the chain of command. This sends a strong message within the Department that it is on the right track and that the residents of Miami-Dade County are very pleased with their hard work and dedication. To date we have invested over 64 million in additional dollars for Operation Safe Streets. Thanks to the Board of County Commissioners' unwavering support over the past eight years, we have cut violent crime in Miami-Dade by 48 percent; robberies in the unincorporated area alone are down by 53 percent, with visitors' robberies down by almost 98 percent since 1992. For these excellent accomplishments we thank the fine men and women of the Miami-Dade Police Department – who every day protect you and me at the risk of their own lives. I also want to thank Commissioner Joe Martinez -- who as Chair of the Public Safety Committee -- continues his support and leadership of law enforcement.

Director Parker has been an integral part of these positive results. He joined the Department in 1976 as a Police Officer and has progressively moved through the ranks of the Department. With 28 years of Miami-Dade County law enforcement experience, seven of which have been on the Department's command staff, I am confident that Director Parker has acquired the skills, talents and respect required to be our Police Director. A review of his personnel file illustrates his leadership potential from the very early days of his career. He is often described as a polite, personable, low key professional, a mentor to all and a valued and natural leader. He holds a Bachelors degree from Barry University and is pursuing a Masters Degree from the University of Miami.

For these reasons, I urge the Board of County Commissioners to support the Manager's appointment of Robert L. Parker as Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.

cc: Honorable Joseph P. Farina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Honorable Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, State Attorney
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts
Robert A. Ginsburg, County Attorney
George Burgess, County Manager